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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Primitive Baptist Association,

CONVENED WITH

BETHANY CHURCH,

WILKES COUNTY, N. C.

OCTOBER 23RD & 24TH, 1896.

Elder ELI SEBASTIAN,
Moderator.

J. H. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

The next session will meet with Round Mountain Church, 3 miles west of Round Mountain P.O. Friday before the fourth Sunday in October 1897

1896
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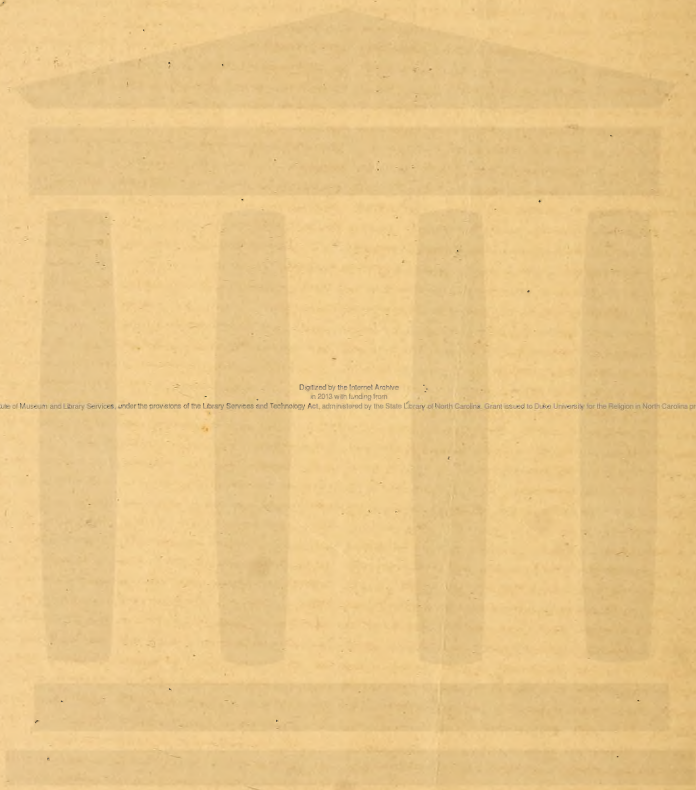
Elkin, N. C.



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PROCEEDINGS.

Friday Morning, October 23, 1896.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder W. F. Gregory from I Cor. III. II. "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" After an intermission of thirty minutes, the delegates assembled and were called to order by the Moderator. Singing by the congregation and prayer by Elder J. F. Eller, of the Blue Ridge Association.

In the absence of the Moderator, upon motion by Bro. Abner Caudell, Elder Eli Sebastin was called to the chair.

Association letters were called for where upon eleven were handed in and read by the clerk; all of the churches in the Association being represented.

Invitations were extended to newly constituted churches.

The Moderator protem appointed Elder W. B. Wyatt, of the Mountain Union Association, and Elder J. F. Eller, of the Blue Ridge Association, to act as tellers in the election of officers which resulted as follows:- Moderator, Elder Eli Sebastin; Clerk, Bro. J. H. Johnson.

Correspondents of our faith and order were on motion, invited to seats with us. Elders W. B. Wyatt, William Porter, M. E. Simcox, of the Mountain Union Association; Elders A. McKnight, F. M. Osborn, and Brethren Thomas Higgins, Jacob Pruitt, and W. H. Keze, of the Little River Association; and, Elders J. F. Eller. J. H. Pipes and Bro. J. W. Wood, of the Blue Ridge Association. came forward with letters and minutes, and received the right hand of fellowship and were invited to take part in the deliberations of the Association.

Transients were invited, whereupon Elder S. F. Brown of the Little River Association. and Bro. William Mahathey of the Mountain Union Association, accepted seats in the Association.

The Moderator was authorized to make all temporary appointments during the Session.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED.

On the Ministry—Brethren J. M. Gentry, S. Gentry, William Harreld, with the delegates of this church.

On Arrangements—Elders B. Woodruff, J. M. Owen, W. F. Gregory, W. F. Porter, and Brethren F. W. Norman, with the Moderator and Clerk. The corresponding brethren were also invited to act with this committee.

On Finance—Brethren Abner Caudell, Calvin Waddell, and W. A. Gentry.

On Sabbath Schools—J. T. Holbrooks, J. M. Brown, and G. W. Miles.

On Intemperance—Elder W. F. Porter, Brethren J. H. Porter, and J. W. McCann.

On Resolutions—Brethren M. F. Richardson, A. Felts, and Elder J. C. Elledge.

Bro. G. W. Miles, was appointed to write a corresponding letter to the Mountain Union Association, Bro. H. A. Hanks, to the Little River Association, and Bro. J. M. Harreld to the Blue Ridge Association. These brethren were instructed to have their letters ready for inspection tomorrow morning.

On motion of Bro. Abner Caudell, last year's committee on Obituaries was retained.

The report of committe on ministry for devine services on Saturday is as follows:- Elder William Porter, of Mountain Union Association, Elder J. H. Pipes, of Blue Ridge Association, and Elder M. E. Simcox, of the Mountain Union Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, by singing "Am I a Soldier of the Cross;" prayer by Elder A. McKnight, of the Little River Association. Benediction by the moderator.

Saturday Morning Oct. 24, 1896.

The Association met in accordance to adjournment of yesterday and spent a short time in devotional exercises, after which it was called to order by the Moderator. The 131 psalm was read, and prayer was offered by Elder W. B. Wyatt of the Mountain Union Association.

The roll of delegates was called and absentees marked.

On motion the Committee on Arrangements reported. The report

was received and the Committee was discharged.

On motion the items on the bill of arrangements were taken up in their regular order.

The clerk read the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Articles of Faith.

An invitation was extended to transients and to visiting brethren to occupy seats in the Association. Bro. F. E. Davis, of the Little River Association accepted the invitation.

The committee on Finance reported $12.25 received from the different churches. The report was received, and the committee discharged.

The corresponding and visiting Brethren were called upon to report. They reported the sister Associatons in a prosperous condition, and sound in the faith. The report was received.

Brethren appointed to write corresponding letters were called upon to report. The report was made and received. The Brethren were discharged.

APPOINTMENT OF CORESPONDENTS.

On motion, the following Correspondents were appointed,– Elder W. F. Gregory, Brethren H. A. Adams, J. H. Johnson and G. W. Miles, to the Mountain Union Association. Elder Eli Sebastin, W. F Gergory, Brethren Abner Caudell, J. H. Johnson, F. W. Norman and G. W. Miles, to the Blue Ridge Association. Elders J. M. Owen, B. Woodruff, Eli Sebastin and Brethren Sammie Sebastin, J. E. Pruitt, J. M. Gentry, Edmond Bolds, W. A. Gentry, J. E. Blackburn, W. M Harreld, G. W. Miles and J. H. Johnson, to the Little River Association.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

The Committee on Obituaries reported the deaths of Brethren Joseph Spicer and Tommie Wood, and ordered their obituaries printed in the minutes.

The Committee further advised that the churches appoint a committee of three from each church to look after the obituaries and report to the committee appointed by the Association at our next meeting. Brethren J. H. Johnson and F. W. Norman were instructed to write an obituary of Sister Bashba Isaacs; Bro. G. W. Miles, an obituary of Bro. William Royal; Bro. J. A. Pruitt, obituaries of Brethren

Jas. F. Miles and William Spicer. Obituaries to be printed in our minutes this year. Reports received and Committee returned.

The Committee on the ministry reported the following appointments for Sabbath services: Elder W. B. Wyatt, of Mountain Union Association, Elder J. F. Eller of the Blue Ridge Association and Elder A. McKnight, of the Little River Association. Report received and committee discharged.

After the report by the Committee on Intemperance, remarks were made by the following:—Elder W. F. Porter, W. F. Gregory, J. F. Eller, B. Woodruff A. McKnight, W. B. Wyatt, Eli Sebastin, and Brethren J. H. Johnson, Abner Caudell, J. M. Gentry and others.

The report of this Committee was ordered left out of minute this year, and Committee discharged.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following report:—

We believe that Sabbath days in ancient times were employed by Christ and his people in teaching and expounding the Holy Scriptures; and, as searching the Bible is a Scriptural injunction, we recommend Sabbath Schools, but would not endorse the use of "Literature."

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. Holbrooks,
G. W. Miles, } Committee.
J. M. Brown

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

We, your Committee on Resolutions beg leave to submit the following: Resolved, That we now return our sincere and heartfelt thanks to our Brethren, Sisters and friends of this community for their kind hospitality during this session.

J. C. Elledge,
A. Fets, } Committee.
M. F. Richardson,

APPOINTMENTS OF UNION MEETINGS.

On motion, the following Union Meetings were appointed at the places and times to be attended by the following Elders:—

At Roaring River, 4th. Saturday in November 1896, Elders B. Woodruff, W. F. Gregory, Eli Sebastin, and A. McKnight, to attend.

At Oak Level 3rd Saturday in December, 1896, Elders Eli Sebastin, J. O. Wood and W. F. Gregory to attend.

At Bethany, 4th Saturday in July 1897, Elders J. M, Owen, W. F. Gregory and J. O. Wood to attend.

At Round Hill, 2nd Saturday in July 1897, Elders J. M. Owen, J. C. Elledge and B. Woodruff to attend.

At Rachel, 1st Saturday in August 1897, Elders J. C. Elledge, Eli Sebastin and J. O. Wood to attend.

At Friendship, 2nd Saturday in August 1897, Elders B. Woodruff, A. McKnight and Eli Sebastin to attend.

APPOINTMENTS OF SECTION MEETING.

On motion, a Section Meeting was appointed to be held at Elkin Valley Church commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August 1897. All the churches in our body are invited to attend the meeting and commune and wash feet on Sunday.

On motion by Bro. J. M. Gentry, the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith were ordered to be printed in our minutes this year.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

Resolved. That we as a religious denomination set apart the first day of January, 1897, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer; and advise all our churches to lay aside all daily avocations of this life and assemble themselves in their respective places of worship and spend that day in devotion to the great I AM.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Round Mountain Church, 2 miles of Round Mountain P. O., Wilkes County, N. C., commencing on Friday before the 4th Lord's Day in October, 1897. Elder William Miles, as principal with Elder J. O. Wood, as alternate, was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon.

On motion, the Clerk and Treasurer was appointed to superintend the printing and the distribution of the usual number of copies of the minutes. After defraying the expenses of the printing the Clerk is to have the balance of the contribution for his services.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above mentioned. The closing prayer was offered by Elder J. F. Eller, of the Blue Ridge Association and the Benediction was pronounced by the Moderator.

J. H. Johnson, Clerk. Elder Eli Sebastin, Moderator.

Sunday Morning, October 25, 1896.

Services was opened by reading the 14th Chapter of John, "Let not your hearts be troubled &c.," and singing, "Blest be the ties that bind," and prayer by Elder Eli Sabastin.

1st Sermon was delivered by Elder W. B. Wyatt, from John 14th Chapter and 6th verse, I am the way the truth and the life &c.

2nd Sermon by Elder J. F. Eller, from John, 14th Chapter and 18th Verse, "I will not leave you comfortless." Sung, My soul repeat his prayers, &c.

3rd Sermon, by Elder A. McKnight, from James, 4th Chapter and 8th Verse, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. At the close of the service the Holy Spirit was seemingly felt in the congregation. Brethern pray that we may meet where congregations never break up nor Sabbaths never end.

Clerk.

OBITUARIES.

JOSEPH SPICER was born Jan. 24th, 1824. Died June 19th, 1896. He was Married to Tennessee Sparks about the year 1850. He professed faith in Christ about three years ago. He was baptised into the fellowship of Liberty Knob Church about one month previous to his death. During his last days his suffering was great but borne with great fortitude, He often prayed to die easy. On the day mentioned above he passed away, as quietly as going to sleep. Weep not Wife, Weep not Children, our loss is his eternal gain.

Elder W. F. Gregory, Chairman Committee.

THOMAS WOOD was born August 9th, 1862, and died August 17th, 1896. He joined the Baptist Church at Rock Creek in 1885 and moved his membership to Round Mountain Oct. 15th 1895 and there remained until his death. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn their loss, but we feel to believe that their great loss is his eternal gain.

Farewell dear friends on earth below
My body to the grave must go;
And with the Lord I hope to be,
Prepare for death and follow me.

W. F. Gregory, Chairman Committee.

J. F. MILES was born Jan. 27th, 1868 and was accidentally shot dead, Dec. 27th 1895. He was baptised into the fellowship of Round Hill Baptist Church in Aug. 1889. He remained an orderly walking number of that body until his death. He took great interest in religious exercises often conversing with his wife and neighbors on religious subjects also leading public prayers at church. He leaves a loving wife and two little children to mourn their loss though it has been the Lord's will and good pleasure to call the dear brother from the shores of time to join the happy throng around his throne in glory,

Wm. Spicer was born March 14th, 1816. Deceased June 28th, 1896. He joined the church at Roaring River about the year 1845 and remained a member of the same until the constitution of Round Hill Church in the year 1888 and then moved his membership there and remained until his death. He was a good and faithful member of the church. He spent the greater part of his time reading the scriptures and watching for the summons of death, when he should soar a way to a world on high.

W. F. Gregory, Chairman Committee.

Bashba Isaacs was born Oct. 2nd 1841 and was married to F. A. Isaacs Oct. 4th, 1866. She was an invalid for 22 years and professed religion in June, joined White Oak Baptist Church the 4th Saturdry in June 1896 and was Baptized on Sunday followlng by Elder A. McKnight when she presented herself to the church she stated she had prayed for an opportunity to present itsself for her to join the church and the evening after she was Baptized she expressed to her husband that she would not live long and was perfectly ready to go after discharging her last duty and in just two weeks and one day after her Baptism, she was called from this world of trouble to a fairer world on high making her stay on earth 55 years 10 months and 9 days. Weep not husband, weep not children, but prepare to meet wife and mother where sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt no more.

ROLL OF DELEGATES PRESENT.

BETHANY.—John Wood, Daniel Wood, J. E. Blackburn, J. M. Owen, Eli Blackburn.

OAK LEVEL.—James P. Cockerham, Calvin Waddell, Iredell Gentry.

ELKIN VALLEY.—B. Woodruff, O. L. Darnell, C. A. Cooper, M. F. Willard, J. F. Cooper.

ROUND HILL—S. Gentry, J. A. Pruette, M. F. Richardson, T. P. Hanks, R. M. Bauguss.

FRIENDSHIP.—J. M. Gentry, W. A. Gentry, Winfield Chappel, Henderson Guyer.

RACHEL.—Jas. Dimmette, W. H. Cothren, John Crabb, Ruffin Wilmoth, Edmund Bolds.

LIBERTY KNOB.—G. W. Miles, W. F. Royal, J. W. Brooks, E. W. Hollaway.

WHITE OAK.—J. H. Johnson, H. A. Hanks, F. W. Norman, Sam Hanks, G. W. McCann.

ROARING RIVER.—J. T. Holbrook, S. M. Johnson, G. W. Brown, J. M. Brown, T. R. Cockerham.

ROUND MOUNTAIN.—W. F. Gregory, A. Felts, H. A. Adams, A. Caudill, J. C. Elldge.

ZION.—Eli Sebastin, W. F. Porter, J. W. Walker, J. M. Harreld, W. M. Harreld.

Churches and Their Pastors.	Pastors.
Bethany, Round Mt,, N. C.....	J. M. Owen and J. C. Elledge..
Elkin Valley, Elkin, N. C...	W. F. Gregory and B. Woodruff
Friendship, Rusk, N. C.....	A. McKnight and B. Woodruff..
Liberty Knob, Cherry Lane, N. C.	Wm, Miles .....
Round Mt., Round Mt., N. C....	J. O. Wood and J, C. Elledge..
Oak Level, Benham, N. C..	Eli Sebastian ....
Round Hill, Dockery, N. C	William Miles .....
Rachel, Burcham, N. C.	J. M. Owen and Eli Sebastian
Roaring River, Joynes, N. C.	William Miles .....
White Oak, Parks, N. C.	A. McKnight .....
Zion, Viands, N. C....	Eli Sebastian .. ..

L TABLE.

Clerks and Their P. O. Address.	Saturdays of Church Meetings.	Rec'd by Experience & Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Received by Application	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total Membership.	Contributions.
Daniel Wood, Round Mt., N. C..	4	1	4						48	80
O. L. Darnell, Elkin, N. C.....	4	2		5					34	1 05
J. M. Gentry, Rusk, N. C	2	3		1					18	1 30
W. F. Royal, Cherry Lane, N. C.	3	2						2	35	70
N. A. Adams, Round Mt., N. C.	1	7		9		3	1	1	111	1 50
Jas. P. Cockerham, Benham, N.C.	3	2	2						21	65
M. F. Richardson, Dockery, N. C.	2	1	1			2		3	67	1 00
Williford Pruette, Burcham, N. C.	1	8	4			4	2		54	1 10
J. T. Holbrook, Joynes, N. C.....	4					1	1	1	95	1 25
J. H. Johnson, Parks, N. C	4	3	5	1		1		1	48	2 00
W. M. Harreld, Viands, N. C. ...	4	3	3						55	90
		32	19	16		11	4	8	576	$12 25

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be known by the name of Primitive Baptist Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent in the Association; who on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to five delegates. In their letters is to be expressed their number in full fellowship, baptized, received by letter, by application and good recommendation, dismissed by letter, excluded, and dead since the last Association.

2. The number thus chosen and convened shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe any internal right over any church in her union.

3. The Association when convened shall be goverened by a regular decorum.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and secretary, who shall be chosen annually, by a majority of the votes of the members present, a majority of the churches being represented.

5. New churches or any regular Baptist church of Jesus Christ of our Faith and Order in good standing either dismissed by letter from Sister Associations, or by application and good recommendation, by sending up letter and delegates shall be admitted into the union.

6. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings, the best method for accomplishing this purpose shall be at the discretion of the future Association.

9. We think it necessary to have an Association fund to defray the expenses of the Association, and it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they think proper to the Association and those moneys shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer who shall be accountable to the Association for the same, and the Association shall appropriate the money thus contributed to any purpose they may think proper.

10. There shall be an Association book wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by a Secretary appointed by the

Association, who shall receive a reasonable compensation for his services.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

12. Amendments to this form of Government may be made at any time by a majority of the Association, when they may deem it expedient by giving the churches twelve month's notice.

13. The Association shall act as an advisory council and shall endeavor to preserve a general union of the churches, also preserve a chain of communion among the churches and give advice in matter of difficulty.

14. The Association shall inquire into the cause if any church fails to represent at any time in the Association

15. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in her union that shall violate the rules of this Constitution, or deviate from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

16. The Association may correspond with Sister Associations and invite any brother in the ministry in good standing or that can bring a good recommendation of his standing, who may be of our faith and order, to a seat in the Association, who may be present at the time of its sitting.

17. The Association shall have power to adjourn to any future time or place it may think proper.

18. The benevolent institutions of the day shall be no bar nor test to fellowship, but all shall be free to sustain or not sustain the same as they may choose.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make this speech.

3. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any, except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.

4. He shall strictly adhere to his subject, and in no wise reflect on the persons who speaks before, by making remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light or idea.

5. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from

the Association, without liberty obtained from the body, for his absence.

6. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the Association.

7. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of, public speaking.

8. No member of the Association shall address another by any other appellation than that of brother.

9. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member, nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except he violates the Rules of Decorum.

10. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Secretary and called over as often as the Association requires

11. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member provided the chair be filled, but he shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he may give the casting vote.

12. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the Association, as shall be deemed proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, Son, and Holy Ghost, and these three are One.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice,

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election by Grace.

4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin, and in man's impotence to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

5. We believe that sinners are called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Spirit of God, shall never fall finally away.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of those ordinances, and we believe the only true mode of Baptism is by immersion.

8. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead and a general judgement, and that the joy of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel except such as are regularly called, and come under the impositions of hands by the Presbytery.